dealerships have been allotted during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) None, Sir.

(b) Discretionary allotments of dealerships/distributorships are made by Government on compassionate grounds in deserving cases, keeping in view the circumstances of each case, including the recommendation of MPs and other VIPs.

Response from Foreign Investors in Regard to Oil Fields in Assam

1174. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as widely reported in the press, the response from foreign investors in regard to oil fields in Assam, has so far been luke-warm;

(b) if so, whether this lack of interest in the Assamese oil fields by the prospective overseas investors is attributed to chronically trouble-prone situation in Assam;

(c) what steps Government propose to take towards restoring normalcy in Assam both in the regional and national interests; and

(d) whether Government would make it mandatory for the overseas investors to take up Assam oil field sites, alongwith no-risk oil sites, elsewhere in the country to make it a more balanced package ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No offer has been received either from Indian or foreign investors for development of the oil fields in Assam.

(b) and (c) Since bidding by companies is based on their evaluation of commercial and other aspects, it is not possible to state specific reasons for the absence of offers.

(d) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

1175. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Government are contemplating a hike in the prices of petroleum products and L.P.G. in the wake of current flare up in crude prices in the International market; and

(b) whether Government have any realiable market forecast system to monitor international crude market trends and what steps Government propose to take to evolve long-term crude contracting policies ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) To ensure and derive maximum price advantage crude oil is purchased through Long Term Contract with various national oil companies and also through spot purchases. In doing so, the prevailing international market rates of different types of crude suitable for use in Indian Refineries are closely monitored by IOC.